[Mr. A. Lakshminarayana Aiyar.]

19. The total revenue anticipated during the next year will thus amount to Rs 385·54 lakhs.

Expenditure.

20. I shall now pass on to the expenditure side. The programme of expenditure charged to revenue for the next year covers a provision of Rs 327·79 lakhs, which is in excess of the revised estimates of the current year by Rs 33·22 lakhs. Excluding Rs 8·98 lakhs included under Public Works for adjustment to the Road Development Fund already referred to, the real excess is only Rs 24·24 lakhs. This increase partly due to the growing needs of a progressive administration and partly to an additional provision of about Rs 10 lakhs for enhancement of the war allowance to the subordinate ranks of the service, is more or less uniformly spread throughout the various departments. The allocation of funds has, as usual, been carefully examined both by the Government and the Standing Finance Committee of the Legislature. It will be noted that while making suitable provision for the grant of war allowances, the increase in Public Works expenditure and the additional expenditure on defence services necessitated under present conditions, Government have stinted no expenditure calculated to be absolutely necessary to meet the requirements of an efficient administration or to promote public amenities. The Government have also been careful not to provide for any unnecessary or superfluous items of expenditure, merely because owing to adventitious circumstances which may not obviously be of a recurring nature, we expect our revenues to mount up to nearly Rs 4 crores next year.

21. The most important and trying problem of the day is our food problem. Travancore has all along been depending entirely upon other countries especially Burma for making up for her deficit in rice. But as a result of the occupation of Burma, once our prime rice-supplier, by the enemy, and on account of the difficulties of transport, we are not now in a position to get from outside our full quota of requirements. Though on account of your unceasing efforts, Sir, every possible attempt is being made to secure as much supply of food materials from outside the State as is possible, we have necessarily to develop our resources to the maximum yield. The Government have accordingly launched a 'grow more food campaign.' Tapioca cultivation has already been increased by 25 to 30 per cent during the last one year. With a view to encourage and foster intensive cultivation of food grains and other products, Government lands are being leased out for private cultivation on very favourable terms and conditions. Facilities have been provided for an intensive cultivation in Kunnatnad by the conversion of single crop fields into double crop fields by the aid of a Lift Irrigation Scheme and for the better cultivation of fallow punja lands in Kuttanad area, as also for bringing under cultivation extensive areas of forest reserves. Additional manure depots have been opened

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by the Agricultural Department at different centres. There is an essential need for starting industries connected with fertilisers and manures and Government will encourage the starting of such industries with the necessary financial aid by way of taking shares. It has been the policy of Government that the three allied departments of Land Revenue, Forest and Agriculture should co-ordinate their work in this direction and the necessary funds have been placed at the disposal of these departments in the next year's budget.

I shall now proceed to make a brief survey of some of the more salient features in the programme of expenditure charged to revenue for the next year.

22. *Industries.* We have been alive to the fact that in industrial advancement, development of cottage industries plays a prominent part. Liberal provision has, as usual, been made in the next year's budget for demonstration and experimental work. It is also proposed to open a special class for the training of pupils in the manufacture of mats and other articles from palmyra leaves and *kora* grass in various designs and colour. Besides, the investigation of the possibilities of new lines and phases of cottage industries is also proposed to be undertaken as a preliminary to the further development of cottage industries. As in the case of food stuffs, we have now to depend largely on ourselves for our supply of paper. The Punalur Paper Mills is now practically our sole suppliers and it is imperative that we should attempt to manufacture more paper for our use. Keeping this in view, provision has been made for investigating the possibilities of the manufacture of hand-made paper.

23. *Medical, Ayurveda and Public Health.* Provision has been made in the next year's budget for the opening of new medical institutions and for the better equipment of the existing ones. The activities of the Public Health Department having steadily increased, it has been found necessary to make provision for the extension of taluk and district health organisations. With a view to combat effectively the epidemic situation in Central Travancore and to reinforce the primary units of Public Health Organisation, an additional public health district has been formed. Public health propaganda continue to be carried on vigorously by means of lectures, exhibitions, bulletins, etc.

24. *Public Works.* The next year's allotment for public works expenditure is Rs 29·08 lakhs which is in excess of the revised estimates of the current year by Rs 4·01 lakhs. The increased provision is due to the rise in the price of materials and labour charges and the consequent restoration of the 10 per cent. cut in maintenance grants. The provision for the grant of war allowance to members of work-charged establishments also accounts for the increase in the grant for the P. W. D. Having regard to the importance of irrigation works and in accordance with the resolutions of the Economic Development Board and the representations of the non-official public, it is proposed to reconstitute the Irrigation Division of the Public Works Department, so that irrigation works may receive the closer attention which they so richly deserve.

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25. *Education.* Besides the usual liberal provision for primary and secondary education, the Education budget for the next year provides for the grant of a contribution of about Rs 9 lakhs to the Travancore University. The House may be interested to be told in this connection that provision has been made for the participation by the University in the Indian Science Congress, the organisation of a University Library and the starting of a department of statistics. The Research Department of the University is continuing to do its useful work in various directions. Experiments on the production of *Agar-agar*, a preliminary survey for iron ores by magnetic technique in the taluk of Kunnatnad and the preparation of glue from the fleshings obtained from tanneries and the production of gypsum as a by-product of the salt industry are some of the new fields of activity of the Research Department.

26. The total expenditure charged to revenue in the next year will amount to Rs 327·79 lakhs resulting in a surplus of Rs 57·75 lakhs. As already alluded to, Rs 9 lakhs out of this surplus representing the income received by the levy of tax on agricultural income will be transferred to the Revenue Reserve Fund and the balance of Rs 48·75 lakhs will be credited to the 'Post-war Reconstruction Fund.' At the end of next year we thus expect a credit of Rs 129·59 lakhs in the Post-War Reconstruction Fund and Rs 56·23 lakhs in the Revenue Reserve Fund which is not inconsiderable.

Capital Expenditure.

27. The next year's programme of capital expenditure includes a provision of Rs 60·65 lakhs which is very nearly double the provision for the current year and in excess of the revised estimates by Rs 24·20 lakhs. The important variations are :—

28. *Water Supply Schemes.* As most of the major water-supply schemes already taken on hand are either completed or are ne ring completion, a reduced provision of Rs 1·06 lakhs only has been made for the next year under this head, as against the revised estimate of Rs 2·04 lakhs for the current year. The provision made is mainly for the final settlement of the liabilities outstanding in the case of some of the schemes already completed and for finishing the work yet awaiting completion.

29. *Drainage Scheme.* The sewering works held up due to difficulty in obtaining materials and labour, construction of manholes, lampholes, drops, &c., in Block A and the remaining works in the Sewage Farm, Storm Water Works, &c., under the scheme are expected to be carried out during 1119. Although intimation has been received that the Pumping Plant ordered for the Drainage Scheme is despatched, it may not be possible to take delivery of and arrange payment for the same during the current year. For the works including establishment charges and for meeting the cost of the plant a provision of Rs 2·23 lakhs has been included in the next year's budget.

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